

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancels Claims 2, 14, 23 and 34 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Please amend Claims 1, 13, 22, 33, 42, 44, 46, 48 and 60-62 as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A digital contents distribution system having a client, a digital contents server, a roaming server, and a network connected between the client, the digital contents server, and the roaming server,

wherein said roaming server comprises means;

for receiving from the digital contents server a digital content protected by a first intellectual property right protection system, wherein the digital content includes information uniquely specifying the first intellectual property right protection system protecting the digital content;

means for receiving from said client, in a case where said client cannot process said first intellectual property right protection system, change request information ~~of the intellectual property right protection system from said client~~ for changing the first intellectual property right protection system to a second intellectual property right protection system that said client can process;

means for changing the first intellectual property right protection system ~~of protecting the received digital content from the first intellectual property right protection system~~ to ~~[[a]]~~ said second intellectual property right protection system based on the change request information, wherein said means for changing the first intellectual property right protection system also changes the information uniquely specifying the first

intellectual property right protection system protecting the digital content to information uniquely specifying the second intellectual property right protection system; and

means for transmitting the digital content protected by the second intellectual property right protection system to said client.

2. (Cancelled)

3 - 5 (Cancelled)

6. (Original) A system according to claim 1, wherein said roaming server includes means for vicariously executing authentication between said client and said digital contents server.

7. (Original) A system according to claim 1, wherein the digital content comprises digital data encoded in accordance with MPEG-4.

8. (Original) A system according to claim 7, wherein the intellectual property right protection system comprises an IPMP System.

9. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 8, wherein IPMPS_Type in IPMP_Descriptor IPMP Message prescribed in ISO/IEC SC29 14496-1 IS:1998 is used to identify the IPMP system.

10. (Original) A system according to claim 9, wherein said client includes means for transmitting information on IPMPS_Type available for the client to said roaming server.

11. (Original) A system according to claim 10, wherein said client includes means for transmitting IP_address (Internet Protocol address) information for identification of said client.

12. (Original) A system according to claim 10, wherein said client includes means for transmitting URL (Uniform Resource Locator) information for identification of the digital content.

13. (Currently Amended) A digital contents distribution system having a client, a roaming server, and a network connected between the client and the roaming server,

wherein said roaming server comprises:

means for receiving from said client a digital content protected by a first intellectual property right protection system, wherein the digital content includes information uniquely specifying the first intellectual property right protection system protecting the digital content,

means for receiving from said client, in a case where said client cannot process said first intellectual property right protection system, change request information of the intellectual property right protection system from said client for changing the first

intellectual property right protection system to a second intellectual property right protection system that said client can process, and

means for changing the first intellectual property right protection system ~~of protecting~~ the received digital content ~~from the first intellectual property right protection system~~ to ~~[[a]]~~ the second intellectual property right protection system based on the change request information, wherein said means for changing the first intellectual property right protection system also changes the information uniquely specifying the first intellectual property right protection system protecting the digital content to information uniquely specifying the second intellectual property right protection system, and

means for transmitting the digital content protected by the second intellectual property right protection system to said client.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Original) A system according to claim 13, wherein the digital content comprises digital data encoded in accordance with MPEG-4.

17. (Original) A system according to claim 16, wherein the intellectual property right protection system comprises an IPMP System.

18. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 17, wherein IPMPS_Type in IPMP_Descriptor IPMP Message prescribed in ISO/IEC SC29 14496-1 IS:1998 is used to identify the IPMP system.

19. (Original) A system according to claim 18, wherein said client includes means for transmitting information on IPMPS_Type available for the client to said roaming server.

20. (Original) A system according to claim 19, wherein said client includes means for transmitting IP_address (Internet Protocol address) information for identification of said client.

21. (Original) A system according to claim 19, wherein said client has means for transmitting URL (Uniform Resource Locator) information for identification of the digital content.

22. (Currently Amended) A roaming server connected to a client and to a digital contents server through a network, comprising:

receiving means for receiving from said digital contents server a digital content protected by a first intellectual property right protection system, wherein the digital content includes information uniquely specifying the first intellectual property right protection system protecting the digital content;

means for receiving from the client, in a case where said client cannot process said first intellectual property right protection system, change request information ~~of the intellectual property right protection system from said client~~ for changing the first intellectual property right protection system to a second intellectual property right protection system that said client can process;

changing means for changing the first intellectual property right protection system ~~of protecting the received digital content from the first intellectual property right protection system~~ to ~~[[a]]~~ said second intellectual property right protection system based on the change request information, wherein said means for changing the first intellectual property right protection system also changes the information uniquely specifying the first intellectual property right protection system protecting the digital content to information uniquely specifying the second intellectual property right protection system; and

transmission means for transmitting to the client the digital content protected by the second intellectual property right protection system.

23. (Cancelled)

24 - 25. (Cancelled)

26. (Original) A roaming server according to claim 22, further comprising means for vicariously executing authentication between said client and said digital contents server.

27. (Original) A roaming server according to claim 22, wherein the digital content comprises digital data encoded in accordance with MPEG-4.

28. (Original) A roaming server according to claim 27, wherein the intellectual property right protection system comprises an IPMP System.

29. (Previously Presented) A roaming server according to claim 28, wherein IPMPS_Type in IPMP_Descriptor IPMP Message prescribed in ISO/IEC SC29 14496-1 IS:1998 is used to identify the IPMP system.

30. (Original) A roaming server according to claim 29, further comprising means for receiving IPMPS Type available for said client.

31. (Original) A roaming server according to claim 29, further comprising means for receiving IP_address (Internet Protocol address) information for identification of said client.

32. (Original) A roaming server according to claim 30, further comprising means for receiving URL (Uniform Resource Locator) information for identification of the digital content.

33. (Currently Amended) A roaming server connected to a client through a network, comprising:

receiving means for receiving from said client a digital content protected by a first intellectual property right protection system, wherein the digital content includes information uniquely specifying the first intellectual property right protection system protecting the digital content;

receiving means for receiving from the client, in a case where said client cannot process said first intellectual property right protection system, change request information ~~of the intellectual property right protection system from the client~~ for changing the first intellectual property right protection system to a second intellectual property right protection system that said client can process, and

changing means for changing the first intellectual property right protection system ~~of protecting the received digital content from the first intellectual property right protection system~~ to ~~[[a]]~~ said second intellectual property right protection system based on the change request information, wherein said changing means also changes the information uniquely specifying the first intellectual property right protection system protecting the digital content to information uniquely specifying the second intellectual property right protection system; and

transmission means for transmitting to the client the digital content protected by the second intellectual property right protection system.

34. (Cancelled)

35. (Cancelled)

36. (Original) A roaming server according to claim 33, wherein the digital content comprises digital data encoded in accordance with MPEG-4.

37. (Original) A roaming server according to claim 36, wherein the intellectual property right protection system comprises an IPMP System.

38. (Previously Presented) A roaming server according to claim 37, wherein IPMPS_Type in IPMP_Descriptor IPMP Message prescribed in ISO/IEC SC29 14496-1 IS:1998 is used to identify the IPMP system.

39. (Original) A roaming server according to claim 38, further comprising means for receiving information on IPMPS_Type available for said client.

40. (Original) A roaming server according to claim 39, further comprising means for receiving IP_address (Internet Protocol address) information for identification of said client.

41. (Original) A roaming server according to claim 39, further comprising means for receiving URL (Uniform Resource Locator) information for identification of the digital content.

42. (Currently Amended) A digital contents distribution method in a system

having a client, a digital contents server, a roaming server, and a network connected between the client, the digital contents server, and the roaming server, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving by the roaming server from the digital contents server a digital content protected by a first intellectual property right protection system, wherein the digital content includes information uniquely specifying the first intellectual property right protection system protecting the digital content;

receiving by the roaming server from the client, in a case where said client cannot process said first intellectual property right protection system, change request information of the intellectual property right protection system from said client for changing the first intellectual property right protection system to a second intellectual property right protection system that said client can process;

changing by the roaming server the first intellectual property right protection system ~~of protecting~~ the received digital content ~~from the first intellectual property right protection system~~ to ~~[[a]]~~ said second intellectual property right protection system based on the change request information, wherein said means for changing the first intellectual property right protection system also changes the information uniquely specifying the first intellectual property right protection system protecting the digital content to information uniquely specifying the second intellectual property right protection system; and

transmitting the digital content protected by the second intellectual property right protection system to the client.

43. (Previously Presented) A storage medium storing program codes for executing the digital contents distribution method of claim 42.

44. (Currently Amended) A digital contents distribution method in a system structured by having a client, a roaming server, and a network connected between the client and the roaming server, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving by said roaming server from said client a digital content protected by a first intellectual property right protection system, wherein the digital content includes information uniquely specifying the first intellectual property right protection system protecting the digital content;

receiving by said roaming server from the client, in a case where said client cannot process said first intellectual property right protection system, change request information of the intellectual property right protection system from said client for changing the first intellectual property right protection system to a second intellectual property right protection system that said client can process;

changing by said roaming server the first intellectual property right protection system ~~of protecting~~ the received digital content ~~from the first intellectual property right protection system~~ to ~~[[a]]~~ said second intellectual property right protection system based on the change request information, wherein said changing step also changes the information uniquely specifying the first intellectual property right protection system protecting the digital content to information uniquely specifying the second intellectual property right protection system; and

transmitting the digital content protected by the second intellectual property right protection system from said roaming server to said client.

45. (Previously Presented) A storage medium storing program codes for executing the digital contents distribution method of claim 44.

46. (Currently Amended) A digital contents distribution method for a roaming server connected to a client and to a digital contents server through a network, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving from said digital contents server a digital content protected by a first intellectual property right protection system, wherein the digital content includes information uniquely specifying the first intellectual property right protection system protecting the digital content;

receiving from the client, in a case where said client cannot process said first intellectual property right protection system, change request information of the intellectual property right protection system from the client for changing the first intellectual property right protection system to a second intellectual property right protection system that said client can process;

changing the first intellectual property right protection system ~~of protecting~~ the received digital content ~~from the first intellectual property right protection system~~ to ~~[[a]]~~ said second intellectual property right protection system based on the change request information, wherein said changing step also changes the information uniquely specifying the first intellectual property right protection system protecting the digital content to

information uniquely specifying the second intellectual property right protection system;

and

transmitting the digital content protected by the second intellectual property right protection system to the client.

47. (Previously Presented) A storage medium storing program codes for executing the digital contents distribution method of claim 46.

48. (Currently Amended) A digital contents distribution method for a roaming server connected to a client through a network, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving from said client a digital content protected by a first intellectual property right protection system, wherein the digital content includes information uniquely specifying the first intellectual property right protection system protecting the digital content;

receiving from the client, in a case where said client cannot process said first intellectual property right protection system, change request information ~~of the intellectual property right protection system from said client~~ for changing the first intellectual property right protection system to a second intellectual property right protection system that said client can process;

changing the first intellectual property right protection system ~~of protecting~~ the received digital content ~~from the first intellectual property right protection system~~ to ~~[[a]]~~ said second intellectual property right protection system based on the change request information, wherein said changing step also changes the information uniquely specifying

the first intellectual property right protection system protecting the digital content to information uniquely specifying the second intellectual property right protection system;
and

transmitting the digital content protected by the second intellectual property right protection system to said client.

49. (Previously Presented) A storage medium storing program codes for executing the digital contents distribution method of claim 48.

50.-59. (Cancelled)

60. (Currently Amended) A data processing method for a client connected to a digital contents server and a roaming server through a network, comprising the steps of:

receiving a digital content protected by a first intellectual property right protection system, from said digital contents server, wherein the digital content includes information uniquely specifying the first intellectual property right protection system protecting the digital content;

transmitting, to said roaming server, in a case where said client cannot process said first intellectual property right protection system, the received digital content and change request information ~~of the intellectual property right protection system~~ for changing the first intellectual property right protection system to a second intellectual property right protection system that said client can process; and

receiving, from said roaming server, the digital content whose intellectual property right protection system is changed to ~~[[a]]~~ said second intellectual property right protection system based on the change request information, wherein, ~~in the changed intellectual property right protection system~~ digital content, the information uniquely specifying the first intellectual property right protection system protecting the digital content is also changed to information uniquely specifying the second intellectual property right protection system.

61. (Currently Amended) A data processing method for a client connected to a digital contents server and a roaming server through a network, comprising the steps of:

requesting said digital contents server to transmit a desired digital content which is protected by a first intellectual property right protection system, wherein the digital content includes information uniquely specifying the first intellectual property right protection system protecting the digital content;

transmitting, in a case where the client cannot process the first intellectual property right protection system, information on a second intellectual property right protection system available for said client, to said digital contents server; and

receiving the desired digital content protected by said second intellectual property right protection system, from said roaming server,

wherein said receiving step of the desired digital content is arranged so that said roaming server receives, from said digital contents server, the desired digital content protected by the first intellectual property right protection system and the information on said second intellectual property right protection system, and changes the first intellectual

property right protection system of the digital content to said second intellectual property right protection system available for said client on the basis of the received information, thereby providing the desired digital content protected by said second intellectual property right protection system available for said client, wherein, in the changed intellectual property right protection system, the information uniquely specifying the first intellectual property right protection system protecting the digital content is also changed to information uniquely specifying the second intellectual property right protection system.

62. (Currently Amended) A data distribution method for a digital contents server connected to a client and a roaming server through a network, comprising the steps of:

receiving a transmission request of a desired digital content, which is protected by a first intellectual property right protection system, from said client, wherein the digital content includes information uniquely specifying the first intellectual property right protection system protecting the digital content;

receiving, in a case where the client cannot process the first intellectual property right protection system, information on a second intellectual property right protection system available for said client;

transmitting the desired digital content and the information on said second intellectual property right protection system to the roaming server so that the roaming server can change the first intellectual property right protection system to the second intellectual property right protection system based on the information on said second intellectual property right protection system, and can transmit the desired digital content

protected by said second intellectual property right protection system to said client, wherein, in the changed intellectual property right system, the information uniquely specifying the first intellectual property right protection system protecting the digital content is also changed to information uniquely specifying the second intellectual property right protection system.